THE GUIDE TO SETTING UP A BUSINESS IN SAUDI ARABIA (2026)

Business setup companies in Saudi Arabia

Presented by Reve Consult | Saudi Arabia

CONTENTS

01. The Basic Setup Steps

02. Choosing Your Business Structure

03. Tax Obligations to Know Early

04. Where Most Businesses Get Stuck

05. Conclusion

THE BASIC SETUP STEPS

- Get your MISA (Ministry of Investment) license — this is the foreign investment permit.
- Register your company with the Ministry of Commerce and get a Commercial Registration (CR).
- Register with ZATCA for VAT and corporate tax.
- Onboard to government platforms: QIWA, Mudad, and Muqeem for HR and workforce compliance.
- Open a corporate bank account — this usually takes longer than expected

CHOOSING YOUR BUSINESS STRUCTURE

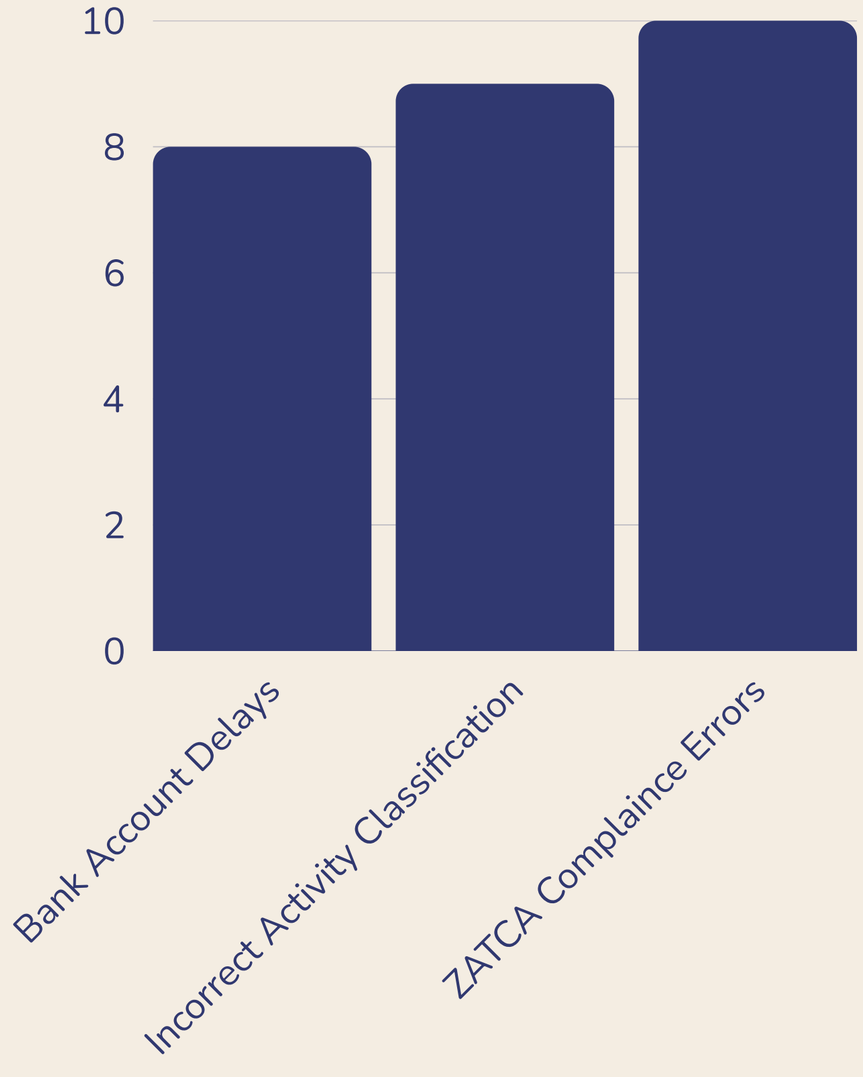
The four main options are an LLC, a Branch Office, a Representative Office, or a Subsidiary. Each has different implications for liability, taxation, and what you're legally allowed to do in the Kingdom. The wrong choice early on can be costly to reverse.

TAX OBLIGATIONS TO KNOW EARLY

- Corporate tax: 20% on profits for foreign-owned entities.
- Zakat applies to Saudi and GCC shareholders separately
- VAT: 15% — mandatory registration once taxable supplies exceed SAR 375,000 annually
- Withholding tax applies on payments made to non-resident companies

WHERE MOST BUSINESSES GET STUCK

Document attestation, bank account delays, incorrect activity classification, and ZATCA compliance errors are the most common pain points for new businesses entering KSA. Planning for these upfront saves significant time and cost.



CONCLUSION

Saudi Arabia offers strong opportunities for foreign investors under Saudi Vision 2030, but the setup process still requires careful planning. Getting the sequence right, choosing the correct business structure, and staying compliant with tax and regulatory requirements are critical. If you handle these properly from the start, you can avoid delays and set up your business smoothly.

Want the full breakdown — structures, costs, timelines, and compliance checklist?

THANK YOU

reveconsult.com

Reve Consult helps businesses set up and stay compliant in Saudi Arabia